

PETERSON GUIDE TO MINERAL COLLECTING BANCROFT AREA

Including locations at;

**BANCROFT
TORY HILL
WILBERFORCE
GOODERHAM
HARCOURT
HALIBURTON**

**MADOC
QUADVILLE
MARMORA
NORLAND
KINMOUNT
MINDEN**

Exact mileages to locations via your
highway map

PLUS •Historical notes

•Tourist notes - area information

•Sources of information

•How to get started in the hobby

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This guide is designed to be of maximum use to area visitors without the use of additional maps. All locations can be found by the use of highway map and your speedometer.

The guide is not indexed, but is compiled by highway numbers. Many alternate starting points are given on each route, and with landmarks wherever possible. All except three of the locations in the guide were recently visited by the writer. Every effort has been made to list accurately mileage, collecting status, road conditions and other information. No guide and no mineral collector is goof-proof. If you should run into difficulty - THINK - LOOK - ASK. Mileages are to the nearest 1/10 mile. This is 528'. Slight errors in speedometers, variations in car makes, tires, slight road changes or change in landmarks can cause confusion. Check landmarks, re-read your directions, and allow 100' - 1500' leeway.

LISTING IN ANY GUIDE, INCLUDING THIS ONE, DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY CONSTITUTE PERMISSION TO COLLECT.

Always ask permission where possible, even where not required, it is a nice gesture and you can meet some interesting people this way.

Close gates, fill in holes, don't litter. Stay away from any buildings and machinery. MAKE A WRITTEN NOTE OF MILEAGE AT EACH POINT. 648 leaves 121 3 times in 8 miles, other roads do likewise. DO NOT DEPEND ENTIRELY ON ROAD SIGNS or you will have scenic tours instead of good collecting.

Only a fraction of locations in the area covered by the guide are listed. Individual pits, prospects, trenches, mines, quarries and road cuts would number in the thousands. Some locations are owned by hostile owners, and while buckshot is highly mineralized, it is not the intention of this guide that you should collect any.

Some locations are highly over-rated. Research indicates that small or single finds of interesting or rare minerals grow over the decades - but only on paper.

Where a number of similar collecting sites occur, the best are listed. There are, for example, about 140 uranium properties in the area covered by the guide. Many are nothing type locations from the collectors point of view. Some are closed to collectors, or are inaccessible except by compass and camel. A complete listing of radioactive occurrences may be found in Vol. LXV, Part 6, 1956 from the Ontario Dept. of Mines.

A few good road cuts are listed, hundreds more exist. Many are to be found along 121 from Cardiff to Minden.

Locations vary in scope from those which can be adequately covered in an hour or two, to those which could be worked for months.

Impressive locations can be created on paper by listing every mineral ever found at a site, including those found hundreds of feet underground in shafts which have long since filled with water. More realistic lists have been compiled for this guide, and it is likely that more, rather than fewer minerals will be found at some locations.

MINING HISTORY

The Bancroft area is known as a prospector's nightmare, due to the wide variety of minerals and small size of most deposits. Many deposits contain impurities, often in crystal form, to the disgust of the developer and delight of the collector.

A number of the early developers and prospectors are reported to have committed suicide.

Mining started with the iron mines at Madoc in 1837, followed by the Richardson gold rush in 1866. Coe Hill iron opened in 1884. Craigmont corundum commenced in 1900 and was the world's largest producer for 14 years. Some of the corundum deposits are almost identical in many respects to those of India. Feldspar mines in the Hybla area operated from 1919 - 1932, some re-opened in the late 40's, and revived again with the uranium boom in the mid 50's. None produced uranium.

The Gooderham- Tory Hill - Wilberforce area has produced minor amounts of apatite, dolomite, fluorite, molybdenite, zircon, nepheline, tombstones, feldspars and much frustration to developers. One mine in the area is aptly named the "White Elephant" by it's stockholders. Many of the uranium prospects, some with underground workings, are in this area.

Faraday Uranium was the most lucrative uranium producer, followed by the Bicraft, Greyhawk and Dyno Mines.

There are no operating mines in the immediate Bancroft area. Stucco dash and chicken grit are being produced at Eagle Lake, terrazzo chips at Madoc, iron at Marmora.

LAND SURVEY SYSTEMS

Directions to locations in some guides, and almost all geological reports are listed by lot and concession. New collectors, visitors from other states and provinces, are often puzzled by this, and by the land survey system. Similar systems are probably used all over the continent, but with different measurements and different names.

Ontario was divided into counties and a few districts. The counties were subdivided into townships - neither townships nor counties appear to have any standard size or shape. The concessions are usually numbered from south to north and run east-west. In some townships they may run in the opposite direction. In others they may run at a slant, or in several directions. The lots run opposite to concessions - a lot is usually 100 acres and measures 1320' x 3300' or 4,356,000 sq. feet. Signs designating concession numbers may be seen in a few areas but are not common. For those unfamiliar with both maps and the area, the search is most difficult indeed. It is like trying to find a garbage burner in the back yard of a specific house in a medium size city which has no street signs or house numbers.

The study of maps can be a good winter pass-time, and many people enjoy the challenge of finding an elusive old location via map and compass. It is usually best to concentrate on a small area, perhaps a single township at first. Until you become familiar with the use of maps, and the area, the name of the game is usually frustration.

MAPS AND REPORTS

The only map required to use this book is an up to date highway map. Few compass directions are given, so that the book may be used by amateurs and visitors. The top of the map is always north unless stated otherwise. South is on the bottom, east to your right and west to your left. Many collectors enjoy in particular, one or more areas listed in this guide, and will wish to study further and search for other locations via maps.

Geological reports are available from the Dept. of Mines, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. A catalogue of publications is available, including preliminary geological maps and a few coloured maps. Many reports are out of print, but may be seen at the Dept. of Mines Library.

Topographical maps are relatively up to date and some list lots and concessions, but the newer ones tend to leave them out. Order from Map Distribution Office, Dept. of Mines 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ont. They cost 50¢ each, an index sheet is available.

Claim maps show all lots and concessions, one is required for each township, which can add up - maps are 50¢ each. Renfrew County alone has 30 townships. Claim maps are often from old surveys and do not show current features. Cardiff twp. claim map is based on 1882 survey, present roads and the Village of Cardiff are not shown. The Mink Creek at present is not flowing through the lot listed, whether this is due to a change in water levels or error in the original survey is not known. Claim maps are available from Dept. of Mines, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont.

HAZARDS AND NATURAL ENEMIES

There are no poisonous snakes known in the areas covered by the guide. The Tory Hill area has an impressive slinky known as "hog-nose" which resembles a Michigan rattler. Like large water snakes, it can give a nasty bite.

Poison ivy and oak is not common around Bancroft, but no area is immune.

Rabies are prevalent in Ontario. Beware of any wild animal which has no natural fear of man, acts strangely or travels with an uneven gait.

Bears and berries go together. The rockhound you hear at the far end of the berry patch just might be wearing a fur coat. Retreat. It is unlikely any bear would prefer an old rockhound to fresh fruit, but you might meet one that got out of the wrong side of his den this spring.

Wasps and hornets. These can be found by placing hand up to the elbow in a hollow tree. Nests should be taken home in your car trunk. An "empty" nest which comes to life in your car can be interesting.

Shafts and deep excavations. Often indicated by rock piles. Approach cautiously. Wood covered shafts are deceptive and dangerous.

If collecting or exploring alone, always indicate where you are going and when you expect to return, or leave your affairs in order. You could fall into something you cannot crawl out of, or break something without which you cannot crawl - period. A small flashlight, matches, compass, chocolate and a canteen can be useful in an emergency.

Watch small children closely - protect them from hazards and other collectors from them.

HIGHWAY # 28

FARADAY MINE

From Bancroft - drive S. on 28 for 4.5, turn right onto mine road. Park on road before reaching the buildings. Dumps on your right. Purple anhydrite weathering white, hornblende fl. calcite, sunstone, sulphides, small gemmy apatite crystals. No spectacular specimens will be found on the dumps. The well known Faraday minerals were collected when the mine was operating. It has been closed since 1964, but is expected to re-open. It was the largest producer in the area, and still has large known ore reserves.

DOUBT URANIUM

From Bancroft, drive south on 28 for 16.5, take the first road to your left after passing garbage dump. Drive .2 miles on the bush road, keep left at the fork. Park at the hydro line, walk across beaver dam, walk 350 paces to small pond, branch left. 170 paces to first trench. There are five long trenches blasted to the left of the bush road, each about 50 yards apart. Trenches run east to west. Peristerite (red feldspar with blue schiller) cuts nice cabs. Sunstone and graphic moonstone cuited for cabbing is also found, but not plentiful. Radio-active minerals are allanite, usually associated with uranothorite. This is a little known location, not too difficult to find, and a pleasant spot to hike in to. You may be able to photograph beavers at the dam or in the pond.

LOCATIONS VIA 121 (formerly 109)

This is one of the longest and most scenic routes in this guide, and a number of highways lead from 121. Included in this section are the well known areas of Wilberforce, Tory Hill and Gooderham. The largest pegmatite in the area, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ sq. miles is reached via the Gibson Road at Tory Hill, and the Bear Lake Road via 503.

From Bancroft, drive on 28 for 8 miles, turn right onto 121.

ROAD CUT

From 28, drive 1.2 miles, shallow cuts on both sides of 121. Orange and green calcite, diopside and tremolite.

BICROFT MINE

From 28, drive 2.5 on 121, turn left onto Bicroft Mine Road, continue for .9 miles, branch right. Keep to the left of the fence and buildings and drive .7 miles to the rear dumps. Gate may be locked, at present it is permissable to walk through and collect on the dumps. Hornblende, mica, peristerite, labradorite, garnet schist, epidote, deep purple fluorite, molybdenite and radio actives. Front dumps near mine road have also produced radio active crystals. Raspberries late July and early August.

SILVER CRATER MINE - (Basin Property)

From 28, drive 2.5 miles on 121 to Cardiff and Bicroft Mine Road. Turn right and keep right to by-pass Cardiff. Drive for 2.1 miles from 121 on the Monck Road to the Kerr farm. 50¢ per adult - pay at the Kerr farm, mine road goes through the farm.

A two mile wagon road leads to the mine - (groups may arrange for tractor transportation into the mine). This is a rugged trip, and a haven for hungry mosquitoes. Well known location for rare betafite crystals, zircons, and combinations of betafite and zircon. Also mica, hornblende and feldspar crystals. This was opened for mica in 1927, deep pit. Watch your children. The main betafite diggings are to the left after you pass the adit.

DRURY FARM SPHENE - or Deer Lake Apatite

From 28, drive 7.2 miles on 121 to 648, turn right onto 648, drive 4.8 miles to "Angus German" sign, turn left onto gravel road, drive .8 on to Drury Farm - house on right. \$1.00 per person, good group rates. Pits are 660' north of the farm house. Large, well formed apatite crystals and feldspars. This location is noted for sphene crystals up to seven pounds. These are not as sharp and lustrous as others found in the area, but they do come in LARGE sizes. Clean with phosphoric acid.

SARANAC ZIRCON

From 28 and 121 jct, drive 14.5 (or from Cardiff 12 miles) on 121 towards Tory Hill. At STOP sign, turn left and continue .8 miles towards Tory Hill. Watch for garbage dump sign, and turn left, passing the dump on the left. Road from the far left corner of the dump leads .4 to the mine. Zircons in several forms, including radio-active, tiny sphene, thorite and scapolite. Open cuts and trenches.

121 - TORY HILL AREA

RARE EARTH URANIUM MINE

From Saranac turn (the garbage dump), continue on 121 for 1 mile to the old Hadlington Road to your left. (From Tory Hill towards Bancroft .6). Take the old Hadlington Road, keep right at first fork, the next right fork takes you to the mine. Not too much to be seen on the dumps, but advanced collectors may wish to explore the trenches in the vicinity for uranothorite and allanite.

MILLER APATITE MINE

From Tory Hill take 121 towards Haliburton. At the edge of Tory Hill watch for Gibson Road sign to your left. Drive .9 miles - (do not branch left to old sawmill). Road looks dubious, but is travelled in dry weather by cars with good clearance. Watch for parking spot to your left. Go down the hill to trenches and pits. Apatite, reddish brown sphene, feldspar, hornblende, mica, calcite. To locate the adit, walk to bottom of hill, follow the draw to your left. The adit will be to your left. Not easy to find. Good area for mosquitoes.

Return to 121, continue towards Haliburton.

ROAD CUT AND FILL

First road cut out of Tory Hill check both the cuts and dumps off the road for rose marble, sunstone, feldspar crystals, sphene, apatite and hornblende.

RICHARDSON GOLD MINE

From junction at Bancroft, drive 38.7, turn right in the village of Eldorado, park near the station. Head for the hill beyond the meadow on your right. The mine is in the woods on the hill. DANGER - deep pits and shafts. These are fenced, but not impervious to youngsters. There is an historical plaque commemorating the first gold discovery in Ontario - 1866. From the mine, walk away from 62S. Many small pits and excavations in the clearings, some yield blue-green serpentine and crystals. Large raspberry patches, abandoned orchard. Good area for bears in late summer when fruit is ripe.

ELDORADO COPPER MINE

Turn right in Eldorado and park as for the above gold location. Walk at right angles to the highway following an old road to the left of the fence which enters the woods. Distance to the mine from 62S is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The mine will be to the left of the old road. Malachite coatings found by digging into the dumps. Iron was mined here before copper.

WALLBRIDGE IRON MINE

From the junction at Bancroft, drive towards Madoc for 40.2 miles. Pit is off to the right side of the highway. Small vugs of goethite, magnetite, specularite.

STOKLOSAR MARBLE QUARRY # 1

From junction at Bancroft 41 miles on 62S (or from Madoc, 4 miles towards Bancroft). Watch for garbage dump on East side of 62S. Bypass dump and drive .2 miles to quarry gates. Check road cuts here for serpentine, marble, tremolite, diopside. In the quarry you will find many colours of marble, radiating tremolite and tourmaline, serpentine, including translucent williamsite. Raspberries and blackberries. There has been abuse at this location, so status is uncertain. The owner lives nearby and permission should be obtained. If you do get permission, keep gates closed as this is a cow pasture. It is reported that truck loads of material have been removed from the quarry, causing much irritation to the owner.

SLATE QUARRY

From the junction at Bancroft, 43.6 miles to left turn to road into slate quarry. The road is just past the marble mill - the slate quarry and dumps are .2 miles from 62S.

BLACK MARBLE QUARRY

Drive .3 miles from the marble mill and slate quarry road above, turn left from 62S to the black marble quarry. This is 43.9 miles from Bancroft.

NORLAND AND KINMOUNT

ROAD CUT

.5 miles from Norland towards Coboconk, check cut for graphic amazonite, green tremolite crystals. Just a small exposure, but worth a look.

ELLIOT FALLS DUMPS AND PICNIC AREA

Take 503E towards Kinmount, drive 1.3 miles from Norland, turn sharp right onto dirt road, drive .2 miles to picnic area near the dam. Dumps to the right of the dam. Tremolite, diopside, mica, graphic granite etc. Apparently excavated when the dam was built.

NORLAND CHROME TREMOLITE

Take 503 E (from Norland towards Kinmount) for 2.0 miles, farm on your left, green house, red barn. The location is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the highway, students at the house usually guide visitors. No set fee, but donation is prudent. Tremolite of faceting quality has been found here, and good crystals. Most surface material has been removed, pry bar and sledge are useful. Many other exposures and outcrops near original workings.

CRYSTAL LAKE LABRADORITE

Take 121S (towards Fenelon Falls) - drive 4.2 from Kinmount, turn left onto Crystal Lake Road, follow this road until you come to the bridge and dam, probably 7 or 8 miles in. Do not cross the bridge, park on left. Walk across the road and follow the path along the river past the dam for about 75 yards to adit and dumps.

CRYSTAL LAKE LABRADORITE - cont'd

This is the Silver Crater, Crystal Lake Property, explored in 1955 for radioactive minerals. Labradorite (or possibly deep coloured moonstone) is translucent at times, and cuts good cabs. Radio active minerals are rare, those found in exploration work include allanite, uranothorite, thorite and uranophane. None were noted on the dumps. Extensive trenching on the hill behind the adit, some poor quality moonstone noted. Rose quartz is reported to occur in the trenches, but it is likely iron stained white quartz.

Return to Kinmount.

PAXTON IRON MINE

From Kinmount (at the bridge), drive .9 on 121 towards Mirden, turn left on to Boundary Road, drive to Davis Lake, pass the "Plaid Shop", continue up the hill to forks in the road. Take right fork, then first road leading to your right. This is poor and may not be passable. Walk or drive down this to a gate, trail leads left to the mine. Black melanite garnets, creamy white and pale green scapolite crystals, magnetite, hornblende, diopside and feldspars.

BRONZE CORUNDUM

Follow the directions for the Paxton mine above to the "Plaid Shop", drive .5 up the hill to road leading left, take this and drive .3 miles. Corundum on both sides of the road, good cabbing material. This deposit covers 30 acres, most of it private property and so posted.

648 FROM 121 TO HARCOURT

CARDIFF FLUORITE

From Bancroft, drive 22.5 via 28 and 121 towards Tory Hill. (Or 12 miles from Cardiff and Bicroft Mine Road). This is the third time 648 leaves 121, so watch your mileage. Drive 2 miles on 648, turn right on to Earle's Road and continue for 1 mile. cross bridge, go through gate on your right, continue for 1/3 mile to the mine. There are many minerals to be found on the dumps, but the outstanding crystals are to be dug from trenches and pits on the ridge above the mine. Climb the hill behind the mine, a trail leads from the cement foundation as you come in. Workings and pits cover many acres up on the ridge. This location is noted for uranirite crystals, and some of the best sphene in the area. Other minerals are purple fluorite, red and green apatite, galena, graphite, molybdenite, feldspars, hornblende, magnetite, orange chondrodite, cleaveable siderite. Over 40 minerals are reported from this location, including some fine micros and zeolites. These are not just lying around, the harder you work the luckier you will get. Take your camera, a good view from the ridge above the mine. Carp in the stream winding below.

RAILWAY CUT

From jct. of 121 and 648 as for above, drive towards Wilberforce for a little over 2 miles, turn left on to Sunset Cottage Road, continue on this road until you reach a crossroad, formerly the old railway.

648 - TO HARCOURT - cont'd

RAILWAY CUT - cont'd

Cuts are to your left. Dumps and fill contain crystals of feldspar, hornblende, smokey quartz, diopside, mica, scapolite, pyrite and marcasite. You may wish to explore the hill above this cut, pegmatite outcrops over the whole hill and black tourmaline crystals are reported to be found on the far side. You may walk or drive down the "road" to your left, for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, but proceed with caution, river crosses the old rail bed but there is NO BRIDGE. A gate on your right before the river, trail leads to old uranium mine foundation across the field. crystals in outcrops around edges of the pasture. Return to 648 and continue on to Wilberforce.

FISSION OR RICHARDSON URANIUM

From "35 M.P.H. sign" just north of Wilberforce, continue on 648 for 2.8 miles, turn right on to Old Mumford Road, drive .3 on the Mumford Road, turn right on to a bush road, keep right, the mine is at the end of the road. The road is soggy in spring and not much to recommend it in better weather. Low cars best avoid it. Adit to your left at the end of the road, trenching on hillside to your left above the adit. The largest known uraninite crystal was found here, it is now in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Surface material is well picked over, digging still produces apatite (some large) zircon, sphene, feldspar, hornblende. RA minerals are uraninite, uranothorite, and rare melanocerite.

DWYER FLUORITE

From Wilberforce, drive 2.8 miles on 648 towards Harcourt (mileage from 35 M.P.H. sign just north of Wilberforce). Turn right onto the Old Mumford Road, drive .4 (just past the Fission Mine turn-off). The Dwyer is on your right, about 125' from the road. The bush is dense, so it cannot be seen from the road except in spring and fall when the leaves are down. Walk to the right into the woods. 40' adit in the hillside, extensive trenching on the hillside above the adit. Massive purple fluorite, hornblende, crystals of red and brown apatite with "fused" terminations, typical of the Bancroft area. Some apatite is quite large.

BALL MINE (Also known as Topspar or Clark)

Drive from Wilberforce almost to Harcourt on 648. Turn right just before the 40 M.P.H. sign at the edge of the village, the road to the mine is obscure. It turns sharp right just before the first house on your right before entering the village. Collecting status is not certain - \$1.00 per car may be charged. The mine is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile southwest of 648. Good pyroxene crystals have been collected in the adit. Trenches and pits on the hillside. Some faceting yellow scapolite has been dug from a small pit near the path. On the dumps you will find massive purple fluorite, graphic granite, apatite, epidote and sunstone. Some of the more solid fluorite will cleave into octohedrons.

BUCK CREEK SPHENE

From Harcourt on 648, take Elephant Lake Road for 7.8 miles, then turn left at Jct. of Kingscote road. Drive 1.1 miles to an old road on the left and park. Walk down this abandoned road to the waterfall on Buck Creek. Sphene crystals and terminated actinolite in the vicinity of the falls. Return to 648.

From Harcourt, continue on towards Highland Grove, watch for Bamford Texaco. Drive .4 on 648 past the station to East Line Road, turn left onto this road. Drive .8 - blue corundum in boulders at bottom of the hill. Part way up the next hill is a small but interesting cut, producing T/N and micros of garnet, sharply defined black and dark green lustrous augites, molybdenite and contorted mica crystals. This is a small but interesting location.

DIAMOND LAKE CUTS

Turn left onto the new gravel road at the west end of Highland Grove. (May not be marked). Take this road for 2.3 miles until you are overlooking the lake. Cuts will be on your left, fill down hill to your right. Good crystals of scapolite, sphene, feldspar, hornblende and mica. You may continue on this road for a scenic return to Bancroft via Baptiste Lake and 62N. Watch for pegmatite cutting the road along Baptiste Lake.

If you wish to return to Bancroft after this location, return to 648, turn left, continue to 121, turn left, continue to 28, turn left. Either route is a pleasant drive.

503 - TORY HILL TO KINMOUNT

Tory Hill is 25 miles from Bancroft - 28 & 121

CANADIAN ALLMETALS

From Tory Hill, drive 4.1 on 503 towards Gooderham. Turn right onto dirt road and drive 1.9 miles. Watch for "lot 9" marker on your left. Walk to your left into the bush for about 40'. Drill cores on the slope of the hill - these contain serpentine, diopside, marble and calcite. At the drill cores, look for an old bush road to your left when facing the hill. Follow the road to the adit, dumps and trenches. Uraninite in cubes to $\frac{1}{4}$ ", minor diopside, orange calcite, pyrite. Of interest mainly to advanced collectors.

BEAR LAKE ROAD

Return to 503, turn right, continue towards Gooderham for 1 mile. Turn right onto Bear Lake Road, keep right when you come to a well defined cottage road and branch right when road forks. Park past cottage after driving 4.5 miles from 503. Walk for short distance on road, or drive if using jeep. Watch for trenches on both sides of the road. Sphene, apatite, mica feldspar and hornblende crystals. This is other end of the Gibson road which is listed on highway 121 from Tory Hill.

FRASER NEPHELENE QUARRY

Return to 503, turn right, continue towards Gooderham for 1.25 miles. Turn left onto dirt road just before cemetery. Drive .15, branch right, drive .6 and park. Walk to the right to dumps and cuts. Minor sodalite, zircons, cancrinite, nepheline alterations. Extensive workings.

TRENCHES

From 503 at the Gooderham cemetery as for last location, take road passing the cemetery for .45, keeping to the left at fork. Park at top of hill, walk to your left through the pasture downhill almost to the river. Trenches pits and dumps. Various crystals, apatite, mica, diopside, tremolite. Tourmaline reported, but not seen.

GOODERHAM CEMETARY

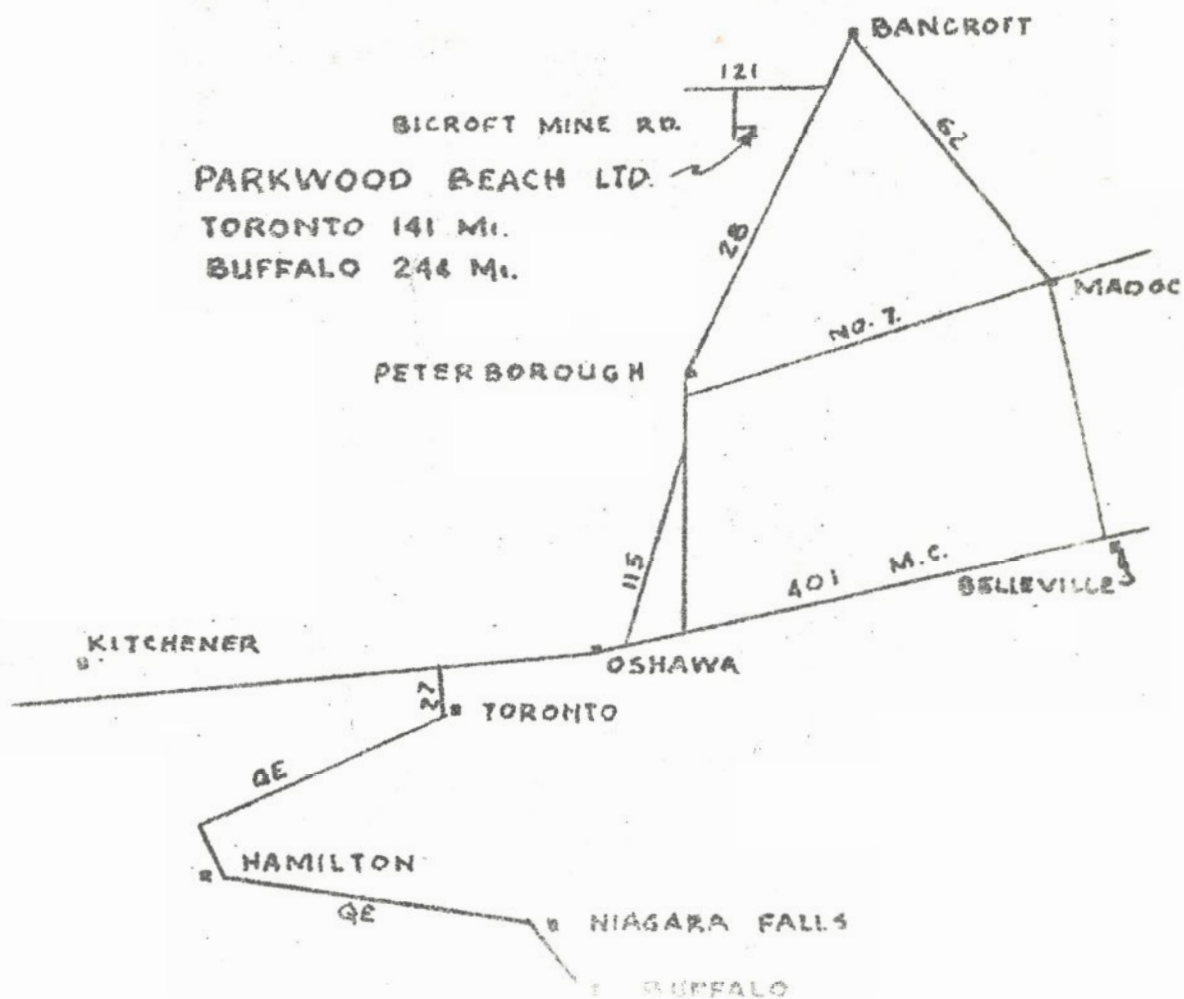
Some interesting inscriptions on the stones here. Some of the men mentioned in the mineral exploration of the area rest here. An odd note is that the men seemed to often outlive the women.

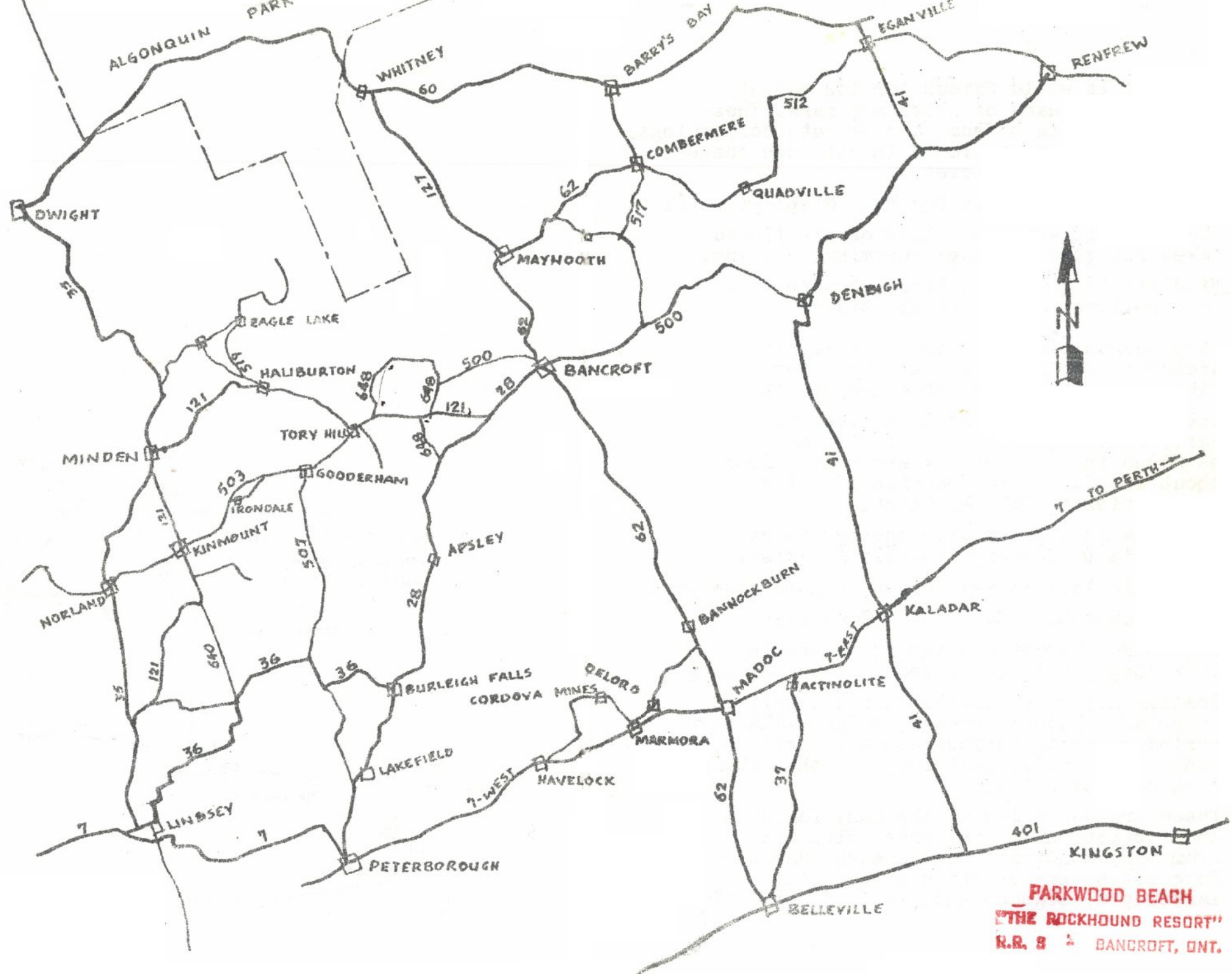
HOWLAND IRON MINE

Return to 503. From the cemetery above, continue towards Kinmount for 8.9 miles to Irondale turn. Turn left, then sharp right at STOP sign, cross bridge, sharp right turn almost immediately past the bridge onto road leading past "Krick" cottage. Drive .9 to mine dumps on left side of bush road. Micros of specular hematite, massive magnetite, hornblend and calcite. Sphene reported.

WHITE TREMOLITE

Return to 503. From Irondale turn continue towards Kinmount for 3.5 to farm drive on your right leading to stone house. Hillside above the barn has a few pits, faceting tremolite is reported, but was not seen. Outcrops cover a large area. Owner has upholstery shop just past drive to farm - ask permission there or at the house.





BANCROFT & AREA

Bancroft is world famous for its variety of minerals, many of which are rare. These can be seen in museums and private collections. A variety are to be found in the rock shops and displays in the area.

The Cottage Museum at Coe Hill displays some.

The Bancroft area is a land of unpolluted lakes for good fishing, swimming, boating.

Wildlife is abundant, bird watchers find an excellent variety at all times.

Many scenic old roads in the area give access to woodlands and are used for hiking, nature study, photography, etc.

Acres of trilliums bloom in late May & early June, elusive wild orchids may be found in June. Wild stawberries ripen about mid-June. Pin cherries and wild raspberries in July & August.

The area is popular with photographers and artists. Scenery is vivid & varied.

Algonquin Park is well known, a good side trip.

Visit Bonnechere Caves near Eganville.

Peterboro attractions include historic lift locks, children's zoo, Indian paintings.

Fossils may be collected in the Lakefield, Peterboro, Madoc, Marmora, & Eganville areas. Periodic events include country auctions, winter carnivals, gemboree, and the autumn cavalcade of colour.

These are but a few of the many features and attractions of the area. Visitors from many countries travel each year to Bancroft to savour the ever changing landscapes, seasons and range of activities.

62N - BANCROFT TO QUADVILLE

HIGHWAY 62 ROADCUT

From Bancroft, drive about 2½ miles from the edge of the village towards Maynooth. The highway cuts a pegmatite producing crystals of feldspar, scapolite, calcite, hornblende, druzy quartz etc. Tends to produce different minerals each season. Many are hematite stained.

CAUTION - Do not roll rocks, and beware of under-mining banks.

McCORMACK FELDSPAR MINE

From the Bancroft Hotel, drive 6.8 miles on 62N, turn right onto the Hybla Road, drive .2 take left fork, continue for 1.5 miles and branch right. Stop at the railway track and park. (For the MacDonald Mine - follow same directions to this point). Walk to your right up the track to within 50' of the first RR sign, walk into the bush on your right. Path leads through the fence and to dumps about 200' from the track. This is a classic "moonstone" or peristerite location. It is fractured but colourful and often called "poor men's opal." Deep green amazonite (now scarce), smokey quartz, feldspars and radio actives.

MacDONALD FELDSPAR MINE

Follow the directions to the McCormack mine to the RR tracks, then drive .65 and go straight, continue .4, turn right, drive .05 go straight, drive .65 and turn left. Continue another .55 to the mine gate on the left and park. The largest feldspar mine in the area, and well known for it's rare minerals. Ellsworthite was first discovered here.

62N - BANCROFT TO QUADVILLE - cont'd

MacDONALD MINE - cont'd

Chief minerals are - feldspar; quartz; accessory minerals, allanite, cyrtolite, sphene, pyrite and garnet. Also, minor peristerite, labradorite and amazonite. This is an interesting spot to visit, large cavern and open cuts and view from the hill top. Extensive dumps, easy access and wild raspberries contribute to it's popularity. Avoid visiting on extremely hot days, or carry food and water.

NATIONAL GRAPHITE MINE

From Bancroft Hotel, drive on 62N for 11.2 miles. Turn right onto Graphite Road, drive 2 miles keeping right, drive .65 and branch left, drive .4 to the farm. Fee is \$1.00 per person. There are a number of minerals to be found here, including sulphides, graphite, apatite, garnet and epidote. It is noted as a fluorescent mineral location - scheelite and scapolite, mainly short wave minerals. Deep pits are dangerous in the dark. It is best to visit the location in the daytime to orient yourself, then collect after dark.

MacKENZIE LAKE FELDSPAR

Bancroft to Maynooth - 15 miles, turn left in Maynooth onto 127 (historic old church on the left, a few blocks from 62N), drive 10.6 to MacKenzie Lake road and turn right. Branch right after driving 2.9, then another 2 miles to the mine. Quartz by the road indicates mine to the right. Mine road O.K. except in very wet weather. Keep away from edge of the pit.

62N - BANCROFT TO QUADVILLE - cont'd

MacKENZIE LAKE FELDSPAR - cont'd

Pyrite cubes to 2", and deep red garnets are both found enclosed in the feldspar. Green to bluish feldspar, also white translucent feldspar with opaque white feathers cut interesting cabs. Buff to brown feldspar and white quartz. There is some very good moonstone about 30' underwater in the pit, none seen on the dumps but it is likely some will turn up. RARE dendritic silver has been found at this location but do not hold your breath in anticipation.

"TURKEY FARM ACTINOLITE"

From Maynooth, continue North on 62N for 1.8 miles. Turn right just before Esso station, cross bridge to left. Keep right after crossing the bridge. Watch and listen for turkey farm. Green actinolite in the road cut at the farm, mostly on the left side of the road. Some of the actinolite is in sharp crystals and doubly terminated. Bright orange calcite and a few other minerals.

BURGESS CORUNDUM

From Bancroft to Maynooth 15 miles, 3.4 from Maynooth to Boulter turn to right. (Scenic picnic area just in from the turn, barbeques. A good rest stop). Turn right onto Boulter road and drive about .5 to fork, then keep right and continue to New Carlow. (One store and P.O. IS New Carlow, so don't blink or you will miss it). Turn sharp left at store, drive 2.4 miles, left onto mine road, about .75 to mine buildings. Park. Bronze, blue, brown, grey and red corundum, scapolite, magnetite and pyrite.

62N - BANCROFT TO QUADVILLE - cont'd

BURGESS CORUNDUM - cont'd

The most popular mineral is the bronze corundum which cuts cabs with a coppery sheen, some cat's eyes and stars. Sledge and pry bar are good weapons at this site. Trails and old roads lead to other workings which extend for miles. Heat is reflected from the rock faces, so avoid this location on very hot days.

QUADVILLE BERYL AND ROSE QUARTZ

Using road map, drive from Bancroft almost to Quadville. (For a short side trip at Combermere, turn left on 517 to Madonna House. Interesting displays of Canadiana, log buildings. The gift and antique shop also sells maple syrup and products made at the mission). Return to 62N, cross the bridge and take 515 almost to Quadville. Watch for the Wal-Gem sign to your right. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry McCoy take regular supervised trips into the quarries. Fee and modest charge for star rose quartz and moonstone. Many rare-earth minerals are found in the quarries. "Lyndochite", a high-lime euxenite was first found here and named after the township - Lyndoch. The rose quartz is unique in that it is possibly the largest known single body of rose quartz.

ANDERSON LAKE CUT

Continue to Quadville, and through. 7.1 miles on 515 and you should be over-looking Anderson Lake. Sharp red apatite and dark zircons of good size have been found in the cuts here. Fabulous view of fall colours from this spot.

CANCRINITE AND DAVIS HILLS

From Bancroft drive 2.3 on 500E, turn right on to dirt road and park at old farmhouse. Cross the creek and follow road about 50 yds. to forks. For Davis Hill and sodalite outcrop, take left branch and walk up hill, road takes sharp right bend, continue up hill to the right. About 50 yards from the bend in the road, a sodalite outcrop will be to your right about 75' downhill from the road. For Davis Hill, continue along uphill to the end of the road. This location was re-opened by the National Museum of Canada for nepheline crystals, and some of the finest in the world obtained here. Other minerals found here include natrolite, sodalite, mica, feldspars, apatite and nepheline alterations.

For second sodalite location, cross creek, as above, walk to forks in the road, go straight ahead. A rugged climb of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Black corundum and other minerals are to be found along the trail.

BLACK STAR CORUNDUM

From Bancroft, drive 2.3 miles on 500E, turn right on to dirt road. In dry weather, turn right and follow old road through the field just before reaching old farm house. Drive half way across the second field. Park, walk downhill to your left, cross creek, follow path about 100 yards to outcrop on your left. The creek is sometimes flooded due to beavers. If you get to the outcrop, heavy tools are needed. Good stars have been cut from this material. Well formed, terminated crystals are rare.

500 EAST - YORK RIVER

GOULDING KEENE QUARRY

From Bancroft, drive 6.7 miles on 500E. Do not cross the river. A road leads left from 500E before the bridge - take this for about .3 to the quarry. The quarry will be on your left. Nepheline, mica, peristerite of poor quality, zircons, minor sodalite and autinite. Zeolites have been found here, but are not common.

EGAN SHUTE

From the Goulding Keene quarry above, continue to follow the old road down the river - it soon deteriorates into a trail. Outcrops of sodalite may be seen along the trail. Deep blue corundum is found in several places, and at the blasted area. Some stars have been cut from this material, the best stars are usually in the greyer material. Take your camera, very scenic spots along the river and falls. DANGER - the river is very treacherous and has taken many lives. Don't contribute yours.

YORK RIVER SKARN ZONE

From Bancroft, drive 6.9 miles, turn left after crossing the bridge. Follow the road for .25 miles to where the rock spills over the road. Some large garnets have been found here - with work. Pry bar and digging tools required. Diopside, spinel, wolastonite. One of the better locations for mosquitoes and black flies.

HACKMANITE

Check the SW end of the new cut on 500 before turning off to skarn zone. Check fill for nepheline crystals.

BLUE CORUNDUM

From Bancroft, drive 6.9 miles on 500E, take dirt road to the left after crossing York River, follow the road along the river for 2.3 miles, road branches, take right branch and drive or walk .3 to far end of clearing trail leads to the workings, about .5. Two large open cuts, a number of smaller pits and trenches. Some of the corundum stars. Minor fl. scapolite, tourmaline, apatite, mica. Deep digging of the dumps is required to find good corundum.

Road is passable only in summer and fall, logging operations are not improving road.

MORRISON AND DAVIS QUARRIES

From Bancroft, drive 6.9 miles, turn left on to dirt road after crossing the river. Follow the river for .8 miles, take road to the right, away from the river. (Several roads branch right, the correct branch swings up a boulder strewn grade almost immediately) .7 miles you will see the dumps from the Morrison mine on your left, half way to the Davis. Trenches over the hill behind the Morrison dumps have minor sodalite, mica, nepheline, albite, feldspar. Continue on .7, the Davis quarry is at the end of the road. This is the noted location for hackmanite and large zircons. Other minerals are apatite, cancrinite, nepheline, biotite, tourmaline, albite, nepheline alterations. The road is rugged at the best of times, and passable only in dry weather. Total distance from 500E is 2.3 miles to the Davis.

62S - BANCROFT TO MADOC

From Jct. of highways 28 and 62S at Bancroft.

MARBLE QUARRIES

From jct. above, drive 2.7 miles on 62S. Take obscure dirt road to right, drive .3. White, brown, rose and green marble - coarse grained and colours not too clear.

TURRIFF IRON GARNETS

Drive to L'Amable on 62S, turn left onto Detlor Road, drive 4.7 miles to the church. Turn right, drive 2.6, take left fork, cross the bridge and keep right, drive 3.5 miles. White paint on the tree trunk marks one location, another is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile farther on, right side of the road. New locations for this mineral turn up each year in this vicinity. The mineral is assumed to be a pseudomorph. Return to 62S.

LEAD MINES

About 34 miles from the jct. watch for "Lost Acres Camp" sign to your left. (Logging is done on this road, so may be impassable during spring and fall). Drive 1.4 down the camp road, the mine is a short walk to your left out of sight of the road.

BANNOCKBURN PYRITE MINE

From junction at Bancroft, 35.5 (about 1 mile past Bannockburn) road branches left, peters out to a trail which leads to the mine. Massive pyrite, somewhat crumbly, may be collected here.

121 - TORY HILL TO HALIBURTON

DAVE WOODCOX FARM

First farm on your left past Tory Hill on 121. Permission and directions at the farm. 50¢ per person. Actinolite, hornblende, feldspar, zircons. The location is in a maple wood, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of 121. It is a scenic spot and easy to get lost in, so carry a compass.

ROAD CUTS AND PICNIC AREA

From Tory Hill on 121, drive 5.7 miles, just past Ross Point Road, check cuts on right side of highway, also hydro line on hill. Cuts continue on to DHO picnic area, and crystals have been found in the water at the picnic area. Crystals noted are feldspar, hornblende, scapolite.

SCAPOLITE CRYSTALS

From Tory Hill, drive 13.5 to Stan Parrish Garage. Ask at the garage for directions and permission. This may be the location listed in some guides for the trail leading from Drag Lake Lodge to the fire tower. The lodge owners report the trail does not lead from the lodge. Picnic area and scenic view from the lookout park overlook Haliburton is worth while visiting.

BOLENDER QUARRY - Eagle Lake

Drive into Haliburton, go straight through on 519 to Eagle Lake, 8.3 to the bridge, cross bridge and drive .2 to the quarry sign on your right.

121 - HALIBURTON - cont'd

BOLENDER QUARRY - cont'd

Drive to the office, ask permission, park out of the way and keep out of the way. This is a working quarry. Gates closed Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Minerals include serpentine, solomite, quartz, actinolite, scapolite, pyrite cubes and other minerals as they are uncovered. Return to Haliburton.

SUNSTONE ROAD CUT

From centre of Haliburton, continue on 121 for 10.7 miles towards Minden, check cut just before "Allsaw Pent. Mission" sign. Sunstone, gold sheen moonstone, hornblende.

ROAD CUT

Continue on towards Minden for 1.2 miles from above cut. Check cut just before Lake Kashawigamog sign. Graphic granite in west end of cut, orange calcite in right (N) side of cut. Unusual translucent pale pink feldspar with blue flash, similar material also in white base.

WILSONITE AND SERPENTINE - Bob's Lake

Cross the bridge in Minden, turn sharp left and drive 2.2 miles to fork, keep left. From here, drive another 3.7 and stop at culvert. (Total from Minden 5.9). The wilsonite (a rose-pink variety of scapolite) and serpentine are found in the stream. Wilsonite can only be collected when water level is low. You may wish to return to Minden and continue on 121 to Kinmount, or take the scenic drive on 35 through Miner's Bay to Norland.

FLUORITE AND MARBLE

Madoc has long been noted for fine crystals of fluorite, particularly green fluorite. After 50 years of collecting, few are to be found. Dumps are well picked over and many properties are closed. A few vugs and single crystals are found each year, but mostly on private property or during excavating for new buildings. Fluorescent fluorite, massive green for tumbling, carving and cabbing, plus small faceting bits may be found.

Marble is plentiful, fine-grained and well suited to carving, spheres and cabs.

MARBLE QUARRIES

From Madoc centre (jct. of St. Lawrence and Russel) drive .4 on 62S, turn right onto Seymour St. drive 1.3 on Seymour St. BAILEY AND KEENE FLUORITE mines on either side of the road. These are now closed DUE TO ABUSE BY COLLECTORS. Continue on for 3.1 miles, branch right at the first fork in the road past fluorite mines. GREEN MARBLE QUARRY on the right. There is another similar green marble quarry almost adjoining, about .2 further along the road, also on the right hand side. These two quarries have lighter green marble (fine-grained), pyrite cubes, some mauve toned marble, tremolite, some serpentine and diopside.

Continue on for another 3.5 miles, .1 miles after crossing the bridge over the Moira River, a road leading north for about 600' leads to DEEP GREEN MARBLE. Return to road, drive .1, another road leads north about 500' to WHITE MARBLE QUARRY with tremolite inclusions. Marble is interesting to collect on a rainy day as it brings out the colours you will have after polishings.

PERRY FLUORITE

Drive from Madoc centre, on 62S for 1.7 miles and turn right onto gravel road. (The following route has some dubious looking but solid, passable roads). Cross railway track - pits and dumps soon visible on either side of the road, mine itself directly ahead before the curve in the road. Mostly massive fluorite, calcite, barite, minor celestite. Crystals scarce here, but fair fluorescent materials. Continue along this road (but do not branch right) to the Coe Fluorite.

COE FLUORITE

Minor small yellow fluorite crystals still found here, deep digging may produce better results. This mine is on the lakeshore.

ROGERS FLUORITE

From the Coe, above, return towards the Perry, but branch left before the Perry. Cross bridge (quite safe) and drive until you come to the mine - the road goes right through it. The famous boulangerite or "mystery rings" are found here in micro size. Digging in dumps produces the odd fluorite crystal. Banded barite-fluorite-celestite-calcite, some fluoresces. Said to be a \$5 fee here, but the owner is more difficult to find than the boulangerite. Continue on the road, first branch left leads to the KILLPATRICK FLUORITE. Owner charges \$5 (not really worth it) and frowns on collecting. Otherwise continue to 2nd gate, turn right on gravel road to return to Madoc.

FLUORITE MINES - cont'd

PERRY LAKE FLUORITE

From Madoc centre, jct. of Russel and St. Lawrence Streets, drive south on 62S for 1.9 miles. The headframe can be seen from the highway, watch for road to left a few yards further on - take this to drive to the mine. Some yellow and green fluorite crystals can be found (maybe) by digging deeply into the dumps. Marcasite, barite, calcite on the surface, some fair fluorescent material here.

NOYES FLUORITE MINE

From Madoc centre, drive south on 62S for 3.1 miles, turn left at the "Camp Quimilac" sign, drive .9 miles to gate on your left. No fence, just a gate. Follow the road about 75 yards to the mine. Again, very few crystals to be seen. Barite, celestite, fluorite, calcite and pink granite. Some very nice fluorescent material has been found here. Attractive radiating blue celestite has been found a short distance west of the mine at the edge of an open field. Total production of this mine - 25,000 tons, making it one of the largest producers.

JOHNSON FLUORITE

Continue on the gravel road from the Noyes gate for .3 miles, mine on the right. Mostly banded material, not much to see.

In recent years, the Department of Mines has ordered many dangerous excavations to be filled in, unfortunately, with the dump materials, thus eliminating many of the smaller collecting sites for fluorite.

7 EAST FROM MADOC

MADOC AREA MINING AND HISTORICAL NOTES

Iron was first mined in 1837, and a smelter was built. Talc has been mined since 1896 and is still the only appreciable source of talc in Canada. Marble quarrying began about 1900 and is still being used for terrazzo.

Fine old homes and churches, some utilizing local materials, may be viewed in the village.

Cemetaries are well kept, and dates on many stones are quite old.

CANADA TALC MINE

From the centre of Madoc, drive .7 miles on # 7E (St. Lawrence St.) - turn right on Concession Road and drive .6 miles, branch right to mine. Collectors usually welcome here. This is an operating mine, ask permission, park out of the way. Certain areas are dangerous and so posted, observe these signs and keep the management "for" not "against" collectors. Minerals include talc, serpentine, soapstone, pyrite and chalcopryite in marble or tourmaline schist, brown tourmaline in small but sharp crystals, rutile, tremolite. If you make only one stop in Madoc, the Canada Talc is perhaps your best choice. If visiting a number of Madoc locations, make this the last stop of the day as the talc will stick to you, your children and your car.

GREEN'S ISLAND

Return to St. Lawrence St. (old #7) and continue E. for .7 miles, or from Madoc centre, 1.4 miles, turn right to Crystal Beach. Launch boat here to explore the island off shore for rutile crystals.

7 EAST FROM MADOC - cont'd

ROSE MARBLE ROAD CUTS

From Madoc centre, drive east on # 7 as above, towards Actinolite for 1.5 miles. Check road cuts for deep rose to buff marble.

ACTINOLITE PITS

From Madoc centre, drive east on # 7 for 6.6 miles to Log Cabin Restaurant. (About 1.5 miles from Madoc, check cuts above). From restaurant, continue east for .2 miles, turn sharp left onto Hastings Road # 2. Drive .8 miles, take right fork after crossing bridge. (Check road cuts at this point for actinolite scapolite, serpentine and tremolite). Continue for .4 miles, sharp right turn, .2 and park at gate to your left. This road is soggy in the spring, do not cross creek just beyond parking spot unless you check it first. Follow old road to your left to the pits. Red and green massive actinolite (fibrous) scapolite (some of sodalite blue colour, but rare). There is a large body of serpentine near the pits. Actinolite was mined to be ground as roofing material.

Return to # 7, go west (towards Madoc) and follow the signs to the Village of Actinolite which was originally called Bridgewater, but re-named in honour of the mineral. Some old buildings may be seen which utilize local stone.

7 WEST FROM MADOC

HASTINGS MARBLE MILL

From Madoc centre (jct. of Russel and St. Lawrence streets) drive west (old # 7, joins new # 7 well out of town) drive .5 miles, turn right just before crossing RR tracks, drive past Esso depot to the dumps, .15 miles from # 7. This is a working mill, so park out of the way and do not make a hazard of yourself. Many colours of discarded marble on the dumps, also serpentine and other carving materials. Small pyrite, tourmaline and other crystals are sometimes found in the massive materials.

HOWARD (HILL) FLUORITE

Return to # 7 from the marble mill. Cross tracks, walk along tracks to first low hill (walk left from # 7, hill also on your left). About 200 yards from # 7. Walk over hill, look for old pits and trenches. Fluorite, barite, calcite veins, not much to be seen, and some is reported iron stained.

SLATE QUARRY

From Madoc centre, 2.1 miles on # 7 west. Quarry to the left of highway on hillside.

MARMORATION MAGNETITE MINE

From Madoc towards Marmora, drive about 9 miles, sign and only paved road to your left. A huge open pit mine well worth seeing from the lookout point. Single collectors are not permitted. Groups may be able to obtain permission by writing well in advance. All collecting tours are supervised, children under sixteen are not permitted in as a rule. Epidote, garnet, calcite and pyrite crystals, plus iron minerals, sulphides and serpentine.

PEARCE LITHOGRAPHIC STONE QUARRIES

Cross bridge at west end of Marmora, turn right on first dirt road west of the bridge, drive .15 miles to the edge of the field. Follow path near the river till you see the workings to your left. Lithographic stone in dove grey shade, suitable for carving. Large calcite crystals reported here. You will note the partial restoration of an old church on your way in, and a tombstone dated 1828. A pretty spot of historical interest.

BLAIRTON IRON MINE

From the bridge above, drive west on # 7 for 3.8 miles to Blairton Road, turn right and drive .6 to Blairton Trailer Park sign, turn right, about .1 turn right again towards the park and take first branch to your left. Dumps on your left which continue on down to the lake, both sides of the road. Dark green and blue serpentine, jasper, nests of tiny black tourmaline, garnet, epidote, hematite, pyrite and magnetite.

You may return to # 7 and continue west to Havelock. Watch new road work for fl. tremolite. At the rail crossing, the side road leads to an operating trap rock quarry at which zeolites and prehnite are said to occur. Exact minerals and collecting status are unknown.

If returning to Madoc, you might like to take visit to Cordova mines (gold mine, ask directions, permission at store in the village). Malone turn sharp right at store to quarry with marble and vesuvianite crystals. Permission from Mr. Pinchin, Clarkson, Ont. Deloro - most property posted. Arsenic was mined and milled here, so don't lick anything if you do collect. Many excavations visible from the road between these three points.

GETTING STARTED IN THE HOBBY

Each year, many people become interested in minerals, and once the bug has bitten, the quest for information is endless. It is not proposed to supply the answers here, but to give sources of information and an idea of the many aspects of the hobby.

Mineral collecting is perhaps one of the oldest hobbies, dating back to the day a cave man licked a pretty pebble and brought it home to his mate. References to mineral collecting and gems can be found throughout history, and there are many biblical references. It is only in the last couple of decades that minerals and gems became a hobby open to everyone. Mass production of lapidary equipment, collecting tools, identification and display materials, books, maps, guides and magazines have made readily available almost anything the collector requires.

A few decades ago, information was scarce. Today, classes and courses are available in night schools, by mail, at museums, from public agencies and through larger dealers. These cover anything from basic geology to advanced gemmology.

There are thousands of books on the various aspects of the hobby. The amateur might start with the series written by John Sinkankas and published by Van Nostrand. These are available through libraries and mineral dealers. The titles are:

- "Gemstones and Minerals"
- "Gemstones of North America"
- "Gem Cutting"
- "Minerology for Amateurs"

Magazines published for the hobby are:

EARTH SCIENCE - Box 550, Downers Grove, Ill.
GEMS & MINERALS - Box 687, Mentone, Calif.
ROCKS & MINERALS - Box 29, Peekskill, N.Y.
LAPIDARY JOURNAL - Box 2369, San Diego, Calif
CANADIAN ROCKHOUND - Box 94, Sta.A, Vancouver

The April issue of the Lapidary Journal (Buyer's Guide) lists clubs all over the world, how to contact them, when and where meetings are held. It also lists suppliers of minerals, equipment etc.

The department of mines in each province is a good source of maps and publications.

Mineral shows, workshops, swaps, museums, field trips and rock shops are all potential sources of information.

There are rock shops in most areas. These range from a few shelves in an old garage, to huge buildings with minerals from all over the world.

It is normal to "see" with the fingers - however, no rock shop operator appreciates having minerals pawed and possibly damaged. Fine gems and glass display cases don't improve with finger prints. The general rule in rock shops is: If you break it, you've bought it.

Knowledge is easy to acquire. After a few months of looking, reading and asking questions, you should have an idea of which aspects of the hobby interest you most. The choice may be further narrowed by your personal assets, location, occupation and ambition or lack of it. There are few limitations that cannot be overcome by enthusiasm and effort.

THE SECOND STEP

There are so many branches of the hobby that the beginner finds himself "riding off in all directions at once."

The two main branches of the hobby are lapidary and mineral collecting.

Lapidary work ranges from the cutting of simple cabochons to faceting fine gem stones. It includes sphere making, carving, intarsia and intricate in-lay work. Many advanced lapidaries learn to make their own settings in hand wrought silver, or castings in precious metals.

The crystal collector may specialize in micro-mounts, cabinet specimens, or a combination of sizes. Collections may be general, or highly specialized. Special collections may consist of hundreds of forms of a single mineral, such as calcite. A collection may be composed of minerals from a single mine, such as Faraday, or a regional collection such as Bancroft or St. Hilaire. Other types are fluorescent collections, radio-active minerals, pseudomorphs, a different mineral from each country, foreign minerals only or minerals from a specific country, photos or slides of minerals, books on minerals and related subjects.

The most prized minerals are those found by the collector. Few people can travel anywhere they might wish, so most collections are built up through a combination of collecting, purchases and swapping.

Mineral collecting is a year round hobby, with preparation of specimens for display and lapidary work done during inclement weather.

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